

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 24, 25, 29, 30, 34 and 35 remain pending in the present application. Claims 3, 10, 18, 21-23, 26-28 and 31-33 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 19, 24, 29 and 34 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 8, 11-14, 18, 21, 22, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonogaki (U.S. Pat. No. 6,625,478) in view of Siddoway, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,631). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 10 depended from Claim 3 which depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 3 and 10 and Claims 3 and 10 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 19 and 20, which now ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 depended from Claim 22 which depended from Claim 7. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 22 and 23 and Claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 7, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 24 and 25, which now ultimately

depend from Claim 7, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 depended from Claim 27 which depended from Claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 27 and 28 and Claims 27 and 28 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 8, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 11, 29 and 30, which ultimately depend from Claim 8, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claim 26 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 depended from Claim 32 which depended from Claim 12. Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 32 and 33 and Claims 32 and 33 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 12, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 14, 34 and 35, which ultimately depend from Claim 12, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claim 31 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IDS

On April 9, 2002, Applicants filed an IDS citing U.S. Pat. No. 6,366,654; U.S. Pat. No. 6,192,257; JP-A-2000-125356; and JP-A-2000-156812. According to the PAIR system, this application was received by the USPTO on April 17, 2002 and was made a part of the file wrapper of the above referenced application. Applicants have not

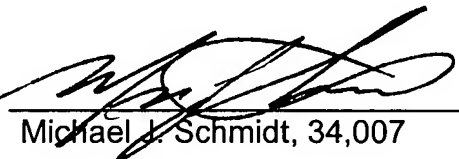
received a copy of the included PTO 1449 form with the Examiner's initials. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to provide an initialed copy of this form.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 13, 2006

By: 
Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg